

Claims:

1. A computer-implemented education and procurement system for use in learning about scientific procedures and procuring products related thereto, the system comprising:

5 a graphical user interface (GUI) configured to display:

- (a) a user-selected tutorial having a description of a scientific procedure;
- (b) one or more requirements for the scientific procedure; and
- (c) product information regarding one or more commercially available

products that may be used to satisfy each requirement.

10 2. The system of claim 1, wherein the product information and the tutorial are linked, such that as a user interacts with a selected portion of the tutorial, the GUI is configured to display in response one or more products related to the selected portion.

15 3. The system of claim 1, wherein the product information includes a product icon visually depicting each product.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein the product information includes a textual description of each product.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein the GUI is further configured to enable a user to enter a profile including information relating to a current inventory of lab equipment and/or consumable materials possessed by the user.

5 6. The system of claim 5, wherein the profile is a lab profile containing information for a user's lab.

7. The system of claim 5, wherein the profile is an entity profile containing information for a plurality of labs within a user's entity.

10 8. The system of claim 5, wherein the GUI is configured to select products for display based on the user profile.

15 9. The system of claim 8, wherein the GUI is configured to select and display products that are compatible with a user's current inventory of lab equipment and/or consumable materials.

20 10. The system of claim 8, wherein the GUI is configured to select and display products that are not duplicated among a user's current lab equipment and/or consumable materials, as indicated in the user's profile.

11. The system of claim 8, wherein the GUI is configured to indicate whether a product is already possessed by the user, as determined from the user's profile.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein GUI is configured to indicate whether a
5 product is possessed by another lab within the user's entity.

13. The system of claim 11, wherein GUI is configured to indicate whether a product is possessed by the user's lab.

10 14. The system of claim 1, wherein the GUI further includes a purchase option selector, configured to enable a user to purchase each product.

15 15. The system of claim 14, wherein the purchase option selector links a user to a remote vendor site, in order to complete a purchase of the selected materials.

16. The system of claim 1, wherein the GUI is downloadable and displayable by a web browser.

20 17. The system of claim 16, wherein the product information is served to the user by a third party server.

18. The system of claim 1, wherein the scientific procedure includes an experiment protocol.

19. The system of claim 1, wherein the scientific procedure is in a field selected
5 from the group consisting of molecular biology, microbiology, cell biology, immunology, hematology, histology, genetics, and chemistry.

20. The system of claim 1, wherein the tutorial is configured to display a plurality of steps of the scientific procedure.

21. The system of claim 20, wherein the GUI is configured to display one or
10 more step-specific requirements corresponding to each step.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein the GUI is configured to display one or
15 more product options that will satisfy each step-specific requirement.

23. The system of claim 1, wherein the requirements include general requirements, needed throughout the entirety of the scientific procedure.

20 24. The system of claim 1, wherein the requirements are selected from the group consisting of lab equipment requirements and consumable material requirements.

25. A system for learning about a scientific procedure and procuring products related thereto, the system comprising:

education and procurement program software configured to cause a computing device to display a graphical user interface (GUI), the GUI including:

5 (a) a tutorial selector configured to enable a user to select a tutorial for viewing, the tutorial having a plurality of slides, at least one slide including a description of a scientific procedure;

(b) a tutorial presentation area configured to display the slides of the user-selected tutorial;

10 (c) a table of contents selector configured to enable a user to select a particular slide of the tutorial for display in the tutorial presentation area; and

(d) a product presentation area configured to display information on one or more products related to the scientific procedure;

15 wherein the education and procurement program software is configured to select products for display in the presentation area based on a user profile.

26. The system of claim 25, wherein the user profile contains information on an inventory of equipment and/or consumable materials possessed by a user.

20 27. The system of claim 26, wherein the education and procurement program software is configured to cause the GUI to display products compatible with the user's inventory of equipment and/or consumable materials.

28. The system of claim 26, wherein the education and procurement program software is configured to cause the GUI to display a recommended optimal product based on the user profile.

5 29. The system of claim 26, wherein the education and procurement program software is configured to cause the GUI to indicate whether any displayed products are already owned by the user, according to the user profile.

30. The system of claim 26, wherein the user profile is lab-specific.

10 31. The system of claim 26, wherein the user profile is entity-specific, and includes a information for a plurality of labs within the user's entity.

15 32. The system of claim 25, wherein the GUI includes a selector configured to enable the user to edit the user profile.

33. The system of claim 25, wherein the product presentation area includes a product selector configured to present one or more product icons for selection by the user.

34. The system of claim 33, wherein the product presentation area further includes a product description area configured to display a description corresponding to a product icon selected by the user.

5 35. The system of claim 33, further including a product purchase option selector configured to enable a user to purchase the selected product.

36. The system of claim 25, wherein the GUI further includes a transcript presentation area configured to display a transcript of narration corresponding to a current slide presented in the tutorial presentation area.

37. The system of claim 25, wherein the GUI further includes a tool selector, configured to enable a user to select a software tool selected from the group consisting of a help tool and a glossary tool.

38. A method for educating a user about a scientific procedure and products related thereto, the method comprising:

receiving a command from a user to display a user-selected tutorial containing information related to a scientific procedure;

5 displaying the user-selected tutorial; and

on the same interface as the tutorial, displaying product information corresponding to one or more commercially available products required to conduct the scientific procedure.

10 39. The method of claim 38, wherein the tutorial describes a plurality of steps of the scientific procedure, and the products are listed by procedure step.

15 40. The method of claim 38, wherein the scientific procedure includes one or more requirements, and the method further comprises selecting for display one or more products suitable to meet each requirement.

41. The method of claim 38, further comprising:

receiving a user profile including information on a current inventory of lab equipment and/or materials possessed by the user.

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42. The method of claim 41, further comprising, selecting products for display based on the user profile.

43. The method of claim 42, wherein the products are selected to be compatible with lab equipment and/or materials currently possessed by the user, as indicated by the user profile.

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44. The method of claim 41, further comprising, displaying an indication to the user of whether a product is currently possessed by the user, according to the user profile.

45. The method of claim 41, wherein the user profile is lab-specific.

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46. The method of claim 41, wherein the user profile is entity-specific, and includes information for a plurality of labs within the user's entity.

47. A program storage medium readable by a computing device, the program storage medium tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the computing device to perform a method for use in educating a user about a scientific procedure and products related thereto, the method comprising:

5 receiving a command from a user to display a user-selected tutorial containing information related to a scientific procedure;

displaying the user-selected tutorial; and

on the same screen as the tutorial, displaying product information corresponding to one or more commercially available products required to conduct the scientific procedure.